



Senator Joe Hune
Agriculture Committee Chair

May 15, 2014

RE: **Substitute for House Bill No. 5195** [HO4183'13 (H-2)],

The Michigan Meat Association provides the following letter of support for **Substitute for House Bill No. 5195** [HO4183'13 (H-2)], a bill to amend 200 PA 92, entitled "Food Law", section 7115 (MCL 289.7115).

The Michigan Meat Association represents the State's meat and poultry processors, slaughters, caterers, wholesalers, retailers, suppliers and consultants to the meat and poultry industry. The majority of our membership is represented by family-owned and operated small and very small businesses. Most of our members produce a wide variety of fresh and processed meat and poultry products.

Comments:

Subsection **(3)** (g) unacceptable ingredients. Replacing the word "excepting" with "except". This change does not affect the meaning or intent of this subsection.

Subsection **(7)** (k) ~~"Italian-style"~~ "Italian Sausage" (elimination of the word "style"). The product described in the subsection complies with federal requirements of "Italian Sausage" standard of identity. "Italian-style Sausage" is a variation, which allows other ingredients (i.e. certain types of cheese, additional spices, etc.). The word "style" was inadvertently not deleted during the 2007 Food Law amendment.

Subsection **(11)** "Wild Game Sausage" [replacing subsection (o)]. This revision was through a cooperative effort between the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Food and Dairy Division and Michigan Meat Association. The revision enhances the processing efficiencies of the licensed food processors in the manufacturing process for these products, while maintaining food safety and consumer notification. The revision:

- eliminates a restrictive provision, which allows processors to optimize manufacturing equipment, cure and spice units and employee efficiencies;
- includes defined processing sequences of raw material sources that corresponds to prudent food safety criteria; and
- includes effective consumer notification of the process.

Conclusion:

The Michigan Meat Association appreciates the opportunity provide this letter of support for **Substitute for House Bill No. 5195** [HO4183'13 (H-2)]. As a vast majority of Michigan Meat Association members process wild game products in their establishments, this amendment improves the efficiency and food safety of these products and maintains effective consumer notification.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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